

HEALTH
22 OCT 1946

HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Senior Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1945



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1945.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer (Part-Time):

NORMAN MACFADYEN, M.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

NORMAN HOLT, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

ROGER BERNARD GIRLING, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.

Clerical Staff:

Temporary: Miss B. HUMPHREY (until December 7th, 1945).

Offices:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:—

123, NORTON WAY, LETCHWORTH.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR:—

OLD TOWN HALL, BRAND STREET, HITCHIN.

Hitchin Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

The vital statistics are satisfactory owing to the low infant mortality and death rates. The average birth rate for a stationary population is 18, and we are below that, but the circumstances are difficult.

Health during the War has been wonderfully good, but now that the War is over people expect Housing and Food to improve, and it has not been possible yet for this to happen. I have had many bad cases of overcrowding to deal with without the means to do so. The process of "stepping up" is important and should not be neglected.

The condition of Charlton merits the attention of the Council in Housing and Sewerage, and the children's health from this village shows this. As a whole the health of the children is good, but not better than it was.

Mr. Holt has given unceasing attention to the food of the district, but other matters will require notice as opportunity occurs. I am grateful for the help of the Council, Clerk and the Sanitary Staff in this trying time.

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) NORMAN MACFADYEN,

M.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	3.850
Average Population	19,520
Number of inhabited houses at December 31st	5,332
Rateable Value	£139,253
Sum represented by a penny rate	£557

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	154	133	287
Illegitimate	14	24	38
	168	157	325
<i>Birth Rate</i>			16.6
<i>Birth rate for England and Wales</i>			16.1

STILL BIRTHS.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	1	2	3
	5	5	10

Still Birth rate 0.51
Still Birth rate for England and Wales 0.46
 The Still Birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births is 29.8.

DEATHS.

<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
102	114	216	11.0

Death Rate for England and Wales: 11.4

There are no deaths from Puerperal Causes.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	4	6	10
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	—	—	—
	4	7	11
	—	—	—

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births): 33.8.

The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales is 46.

Death Rate of Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births is 34.8.

Death Rate of Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births is 26.3.

The causes of death were:—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	6	4
Other forms of tuberculosis	2	—
Influenza	1	2
Cancer of buc., cavi.: and œsoph (m); uterus (f)	1	—
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	5	1
Cancer of breast	—	7
Cancer of all other sites	11	12
Diabetes	—	1
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	13	17
Heart Disease	24	26
Other Diseases of circulatory system	3	3
Bronchitis	5	5
Pneumonia	3	5
Other Respiratory Disease	1	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	—
Other digestive diseases	3	—
Nephritis	2	—
Premature birth	2	1
Congenital malformations, etc.	1	5
Suicide	1	1
Road Traffic Accident	1	1
Other Violent Causes	1	1
All other causes	15	22
	—	—
All causes	102	114
	—	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	17	20
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—	—

SECTION B—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

I. (i) STAFF. (*See cover.*)

(ii) SERVICES PROVIDED.

(a) *Laboratory Facilities.*

Emergency Public Health Laboratories, Cambridge.

(b) *Ambulance Facilities.*

One Ambulance is available at the North Herts and South Beds. Hospital and one is provided by the Chalkdell House Institution. At the commencement of the year five Civil Defence ambulances were also available. On the 1st July the Herts. County Council took over the control of the Ambulance Services, and after the 1st October provided two Army-type ambulances. The North Herts. Isolation Hospital provides an ambulance for the removal of cases of infectious disease.

(c) *Nursing in the Home.*

The Hitchin District Nursing Association provides four nurses, and the following is a summary of visits paid by them during their year 1945-46:—

SUMMARY OF WORK.

General visits	6034
Health and casual visits	5978
Maternity visits	1150
Ante-Natal visits	518
Tuberculosis visits	365
Minor Ailment cases	389
School Inspections	112
Infant Welfare Centres	49
Other Clinics	114

(d) *Treatment Centres and Clinics.*

The following Clinics are held at the Maples School Clinic, Bedford Road, Hitchin:—

Minor Ailment Clinic,
Dental Clinic,
Eye Clinic,
Ante-Natal Clinic,
Child Welfare Clinic.

There is a Tuberculosis Dispensary in the Out-Patients' Department of the North Herts. & South Beds. Hospital on Tuesday afternoons. A Sick Bay is also provided at Milfred House, Walsworth Road, Hitchin.

(e) *Hospitals.*

North Herts. & South Beds. Hospital.

Lister E.M.S. Hospital.

North Herts. Joint Board Isolation Hospital (for treatment and isolation of infectious disease).

SECTION F—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

1. There were 248 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year. 12 cases of Diphtheria were notified, of which four had been previously immunised. During 1945 278 children under 5 years of age and 129 children 5 years but under 15 years of age received the full course of immunisation against Diphtheria at the Maples Minor Ailment Clinic, and a number of children were also immunised by private doctors. The diphtheria prophylactic used at the Clinic is Alum Precipitated Toxoid.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1945.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Cases Admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	21	21	—
Diphtheria	12	12	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	5	—
Pneumonia	10	2	8
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	2	—
Measles	98	1	—
Whooping Cough	8	—	—
Chicken Pox	85	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	—

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES, 1945 (UNDER AGE GROUPS).

DISEASE	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	1	8	5	1	1	5	—	—	21
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	2	3	1	—	—	12
Paratyphoid B. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	5
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	2	—	4	—	1	—	—	1	1	10
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
Measles ...	7	6	17	10	12	43	2	—	1	—	—	—	98
Whooping Cough ...	1	1	1	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Chicken Pox ...	—	6	5	2	5	44	16	4	3	—	—	—	85
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
TOTALS ...	12	13	23	15	19	106	25	10	12	7	4	2	248

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1945.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
15—	1	7	3	1	—	—	—	—
25—	5	3	1	3	2	2	—	—
35—	3	1	—	1	2	2	2	—
45—	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	12	13	5	10	6	4	2	—

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my fourth Annual Report upon the work carried out during the year ending December 31st, 1945.

Various nuisances and housing defects were remedied by formal and informal action under the Public Health Act, but no action was taken under the Housing Act, due to the acute shortage of labour and materials. During the year an overcrowding survey of approximately 3,500 working class houses in the district was made, and it was found that 51 houses were overcrowded and a further 49 were likely to become overcrowded when members of H.M. Forces were demobilised.

I have to express my thanks to all of the Council's officials for their co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) N. HOLT, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1945.

NATURE OF VISIT OR INSPECTION.

General Sanitation:

Water Supply	13
Drainage	115
Stables and Piggeries	4
Common Lodging Houses	1
Tents, Vans and Sheds	5
Factories	13
Bakehouses	27
Refuse and Salvage Collection	84
Refuse Disposal	86
Rats and Mice	17
Schools	2
Shops	1
Employment Agencies	2
Petroleum Installations	48
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	82

Housing: Under Public Health Acts.

Number of Houses Inspected	288
Visits paid to above houses	848

Under Housing Acts..

Number of Houses Inspected	—
Visits paid to above houses	—

Overcrowding.

Number of Houses Inspected	3559
Visits paid to above houses	3569

Verminous Premises.

Number of Houses Inspected	34
Visits paid to above houses	85

Infectious Diseases:

Inquiries in cases of I.D.	50
Visits <i>re</i> disinfection	69
Miscellaneous I.D. visits	10

Meat and Food Inspection: Inspection of Meat.

Visits to Slaughter Houses	243
„ „ Shops and Stalls	43
„ „ Butchers	37

Visits to:—

Fishmongers and Poulterers	13
Grocers	72
Greengrocers	4
Cowsheds	9
Dairies and Milkshops	64
Ice Cream Premises	12
Food Preparing Premises	2
Restaurants	8

Visits in connection with Sampling.

Milk—Bacteriological	46
Milk—Tubercle Bacilli	15

Notices served.

Number of Informal Served	202
Number of Informal Notices complied with ..	177
Number of Statutory notices served	13
Number of Statutory notices complied with ..	12

HOUSING REPAIRS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF SANITARY INSPECTORS.

General.

Brickwork repaired or rendered	4
Roofs repaired	7
Chimney Stacks repaired or rebuilt	3
Eaves, gutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	4
Water Butts provided	1
Window Frames repaired or renewed	1
Floors repaired or renewed	3
Staircases repaired	1
Ceilings repaired or renewed	1
Fireplaces, ranges, repaired or renewed	4
Coppers provided or repaired	1
Hot Water Systems repaired	5
Water Services repaired or renewed	2

Drainage.

Choked drains and water closets cleared	19
Drains repaired or relaid	6
Inspection chambers constructed	4
Inspection chamber covers provided	4
Fresh Air Inlets renewed	1
Soil pipes repaired or renewed	1
Vent pipes repaired or renewed	2
Gullies provided or renewed	2

Fittings.

Water Closets provided or renewed	28
Baths provided	1
W.C. Flushing Cisterns repaired or renewed ..	17
Washbasins provided	2
Sinks provided	2
New Dustbins provided	173

SECTION C—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) *Water.*

With the exception of a few cases on the outskirts of the district, the whole of Hitchin obtains its water from a piped supply owned by the Council. The Water Engineer is Mr. S. Davey, to whom I am indebted for the following information:—

The water is obtained from three deep wells, Well Head and Temple End, situated at Charlton, a hamlet on the south-west side of the district, and Oughton Head, situated on the boundary of Pirton.

The sub-soil of the district is mainly chalk. The supply has been maintained, and now that the Oughton Head supply is in full use the town has an ample supply of water. In addition to the town, the Council also supply water to the areas of Ickleford and Cadwell in the Hitchin Rural District.

The water from Temple End and Well Head is chlorinated before being stored and dechlorinated before being pumped into supply. The water from Oughton Head Well is now pumped direct to supply without chlorination with the Ministry of Health's approval.

Samples for bacteriological and chemical analysis were taken fortnightly and with the exception of one raw water sample from Temple End and Well Head Wells, the water both treated and untreated was of a very high standard. The sample of treated water, taken at the same time as the doubtful raw water one, was perfect.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

There has been no important extension of sewerage during the year.

2. *Rivers and Streams.*

No change from previous year.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation.*

With the exception of the village of Charlton and a few outlying houses, the whole of the district is served by water closets, which, excluding one or two houses which discharge into cesspools, are connected to the Council's sewers.

Charlton is in the main provided with pail closets or connected to cesspools or soak-aways. The question of sewerage at this village is receiving the consideration of the Council.

(ii) *Public Cleansing.*

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The following tables show the estimated cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal:—

Number of Loads collected	2,079
Estimated weight Tons	4,091
Cost of Collection	£2,783
Cost per ton	13s. 7d.
Cost of Disposal	£741
Cost per ton	3s. 7d.
Cost of Collection and Disposal	£3,524
Cost per ton of Collection and Disposal	17s. 2d.

SALVAGE.

The following materials were salvaged during the year:

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	162	4	3	17	103	4	7
Metals—							
Baled Tins	1	5	0	0	1	5	0
Cast Iron	17	0	0		2	11	0
Light Iron	4	8	3	0	1	2	2
Steel	2	0	0	0	5	0	0
Cast Aluminium				15		4	0
Rolled Aluminium		1	2	4	5	7	2
Brass		2	3	26	4	0	7
Copper		1	0	6	2	6	5
Lead		1	3	15	1	15	11
Battery Lead		4	0	0	2	10	1
Uncleaned Metals			2	22		13	3
Rags	8	0	2	11	11	2	8
Sacking	8	11	0	20	34	4	9
Bottles	5	0	0	0	8	2	0
Dry Batteries	5	13	0	0	1	8	3
Bones	1	6	1	7	6	13	3
Kitchen Waste	25	3	8	0	38	0	2
Condemned Foodstuffs	1	12	0	16	5	12	6
Total ..	454	19	0	19	£1609	13	4

Total Cost of Refuse Collection, Salvage and Disposal—
£2,097.

Net Cost per ton of Refuse Collection and Disposal—
10s. 3d.

The sale of salvaged materials decreases the cost per
ton of Refuse Collection and Disposal by 6s. 11d.

(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

See pages 10-12.

(iv) *Shops and Offices.*

No action was taken during the year.

(v) *Camping Sites.*

Nil.

(vi) *Smoke Abatement.*

Inspections were carried out during the year.

(vii) *Swimming Baths.*

There is a Public Open Air Swimming Pool provided
by the Council. 28 samples of the water were taken at
approximately fortnightly intervals and generally were
found to be satisfactory.

(viii) *Eradication of Bed Bugs.*

(a) Council houses found to be infested	..	..	3
---	----	----	---

(b) Other houses found to be infested	..	..	12
---------------------------------------	----	----	----

All the infested houses were disinfested.

4. *Schools.*

It was not found necessary to close any schools due to
the occurrence of infectious disease.

SECTION D—HOUSING.

I. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	288
---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	848
--	----	-----

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regu- lations, 1925	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
---	----	----	----	----	----	------

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	Nil.
--	----	------

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 186

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 24

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—

(a) by owners 16

(b) by local authority in default of owners .. 4

SECTION E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*

There are two cowkeepers and milk producers, and ten retail purveyors of milk registered in the Urban District.

Inspections of farms and dairies were made during the year under the Milk and Dairies Orders.

Two milk purveyors hold an annual Dealer's Bottling Licence to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to milk bottled by them at their respective dairies, four purveyors an annual Dealer's Retailing Licence to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to milk retailed by them within the Urban District, and another purveyor holds a Supplementary Licence to use the designation "Pasteurised" in relation to milk retailed in Hitchin.

During the year 67 samples of milk were taken from 33 different cowkeepers and producers who produce milk for sale in Hitchin. The samples were taken from churns on delivery to the respective dairies, and were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results:—

No. of Samples.	Class of Milk.	Methylene Blue Test.		Coliform Test.	
		Passed.	Failed.	Passed.	Failed.
48	Ungraded	30	18	27	21
8	Accredited	6	2	4	4
11	Tuberculin Tested	6	5	4	7

It will be seen that 42 samples out of 67, or 62.6%, satisfied the Methylene Blue Test, and 35 samples out of 67, or 52.2%, satisfied the Coliform Test. Guinea-pig inoculations were carried out with 51 of the above samples, to test for the presence of tubercle bacilli, and all were found to be negative.

Messrs. Wallace Bros., Bancroft Dairies, Hitchin, are authorised by the Ministry of Food to heat treat milk, and the bulk of the milk delivered to them is treated in this way and then retailed to the public as Heat Treated Milk. Samples of this milk were taken during the year and examined with the following results:—

No. of Samples.	Class of Milk.	<i>Methylene</i> <i>Blue Test.</i>		<i>Phosphatase Test.</i>		factory Samples.
		<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed.</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed.</i>	
16	Heat Treated	15	1	14	2	13

(b) *Meat and Other Foods.*

The Herts. & Beds. Co-operative Bacon Factory carry out extensive slaughtering of pigs, under the control of the Ministry of Food, and the following table shows the number of animals killed and inspected during the year:—

	<i>Beasts.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number killed	0	0	0	48,362	48,362
Number inspected	0	0	0	48,362	48,362
Percentage inspected	0	0	0	100%	100%

Of the above animals the following carcasses, offal, etc., were found to be diseased and unfit for food, and were voluntarily surrendered and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption:—

<i>Tuberculosis.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
5 Pork Pig carcasses	406
38 Bacon Pig carcasses	6,478
4,435 Pigs' Heads and Tongues	56,611
887 Pigs' Plucks	4,766
	68,261

<i>Other Diseases.</i>		<i>Lbs.</i>
5 Pork Pig carcasses	Fevered	340
6 Bacon Pig carcasses	„	922
1 Sow carcase	„	337
1 Pork Pig carcase	Moribund	90
32 Bacon Pig carcasses	„	5,627
2 Hog carcasses	„	761
1 Bacon Pig carcase	Injury	142
11 Pigs' fores	„	265
60 Pigs' legs	„	1,215
1 Pig's leg	Abscess	46
Pigs: Miscellaneous parts	„	6
2 Bacon Pig carcasses	Pyæmia	330
3 Pork Pig carcasses	Emaciation	195
1 Bacon Pig carcase	„	96
1 Pork Pig carcase	Jaundice	92
1 Bacon Pig carcase	„	140
1 Pork Pig carcase	Swine Erysipelas	86
4 Bacon Pig carcasses	„ „	596
Pigs: Miscellaneous parts	Inflammation	17
4,305 Pigs' Stomachs	„	12,444
2,232 Pigs Lungs	Congestion and Pneumonia	6,245
2,109 Pigs' Plucks	Cirrhosis, etc.	12,110
3,600 Pigs' Kidneys	Cystic and Nephritis	996
		43,098

Numerous visits were made to butchers' shops, etc., food shops, and other food preparing premises. The following quantities of foodstuffs were also found to be unsound and unfit for food, were voluntarily surrendered by the owners, and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption:—

Meat from Butchers' Shops, etc.

		<i>Lbs.</i>
7 part hindquarters of Beef	(Decomposition)	580½
1 part forequarter of Beef	„	63
1 Calf carcase	„	63
29 tins Corned Beef	(Blown containers)	60¼
3 tins Corned Mutton	„	18
— Miscellaneous meat and offal	(Abscesses and Decomposition)	37½

<i>General.</i>								<i>Lbs.</i>
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	88 $\frac{3}{4}$
Flour, Cereals, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,943 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dates	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	303
Cheese	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	232 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	594
Butter	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Biscuits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	76
Miscellaneous Tinned Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,711
								5,806

